

146 DIE IN COAL MINES IN MONTH

January Accident Fatalities Drop 26 Per Cent.

(Plain Dealer-Times Wire.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 27.—Accidents at coal mines in January caused the loss of 146 lives, according to reports received by the United States bureau of mines from all state mine inspectors.

During the same month in 1921 there were 197 fatalities.

The decrease of fifty-one fatalities represents but 26 per cent.

Based upon an estimated production of 43,955,000 short tons of coal in January, 1922, the fatal accident rate was 3.32 per million tons mined, as compared with 4.13 for January, 1921, when the output of coal was 47,680,000 tons.

During the last nine years, 1913 to 1921, the month of January has shown an average of 50,434,000 tons of coal mined and a loss of 202 lives. The average fatality rate for the nine-year period was 4.01 per million tons mined and is thus seen to be considerably higher than the rate for January, 1922.

An explosion of coal dust Jan. 31 at the Layman-Galloway mine at Layman, Ky., resulted in the death of six men. The explosion was reported as being caused by blown-out shots.

Comparing the accident record for January, 1922, with that for January a year ago, there was a reduction of thirteen fatalities in West Virginia, eight in Kentucky, seven in the bituminous mines of Pennsylvania, four in Wyoming, three in Indiana and three in Iowa.

Alabama showed an increase of five fatalities and Ohio an increase of two.

A reduction of seven is noted in the number of killed at the anthracite mines in Pennsylvania.